

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0114

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 08079

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECE

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ECE MEETING OF THE GAS COMMITTEE'S GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF GAS

1. THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF GAS
OF THE ECE COMMITTEE ON GAS HELD ITS NINTH SESSION AT GENEVA
FROM MAY 10 - 12, 1978. ATTENDING WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM
AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, EAST GERMANY, WEST
GERMANY, HUNGARY, NETHERLANDS, ROUMANIA, SPAIN, TURKEY,
SWITZERLAND, USSR, UK, YUGOSLAVIA, AND THE UNITED STATES.
ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN WERE H.L. JONES FROM THE
UK AND I. GEAGOLA FROM ROUMANIA. THE DATE FOR THE NEXT
SESSION WAS TENTATIVELY SET FOR MAY 23 - 25, 1979.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE
GROUP DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING:

A) SEA PIPELINES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GAS: AS A FOLLOW-UP
TO THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR HELD IN FLORENCE REGARDING
SEA-GAS PIPELINES, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING INTEREST IN THE
COMMITTEE TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER SUCH SEMINAR. THE USSR
PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A PLANNING GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMEN-
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DATIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GAS COMMITTEE AS TO WHAT
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS FIELD OF WORK. A TENTATIVE
TITLE, "SECOND SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS RELATING TO SEA PIPELINES
FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GAS," WAS ADOPTED. THE SECRETARIAT
WILL BE ASKING GOVERNMENTS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING THE
SEMINAR (AT THE PRESENT TIME THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS THIS
UNDER CONSIDERATION) AND WHAT TOPICS SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

THE US DELEGATION WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT WITH INFORMATION ON THE OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE HELD ANNUALLY IN HOUSTON.

B) USE OF LMG FOR PEAK-SHARING: THE ECE SECRETARIAT MADE AVAILABLE A TENTATIVE REPORT, TO BE UPDATED BY THE SUBMISSION OF NEW INFORMATION, ON THE USE OF LMG FOR PEAK-SHARING PURPOSES. THE US DELEGATION PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON THE SEMINAR AND STUDY TOUR ON LMG PEAK-SHARING BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON DC, MARCH 5-9, 1979.

C) UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF GAS: REPORTS BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS ON THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF GAS WERE REVIEWED AND IT WAS REQUESTED THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. THE SECRETARIAT APPRECIATED THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE US DELEGATION.

D) DETERMINATION OF LOAD FACTOR OF GAS PIPELINES: THE USSR DELEGATION HAS BEEN PREPARING A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT AND A REQUEST WAS MADE FOR THE USA TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ON THIS SUBJECT.

E) PROBLEMS IN MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL GAS PIPELINES: THIS IS A FAVORED TOPIC OF THE USSR, WHICH OVER THE YEARS HAS ATTEMPTED TO BROADEN THE DISCUSSION AND STUDY OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROPER UTILIZATION AND EFFICIENCY

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ENT USE OF GAS TRANSPORT SYSTEMS. CONSIDERING THE COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED, THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP WAS TO LIMIT FURTHER WORK IN THIS AREA TO THE PURELY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL GAS PIPELINES.

F) TRANSPORT OF GAS UNDER SUB-COOLED CONDITIONS: THE USSR REPRESENTATIVES GAVE A REPORT ON THEIR STUDY TO CONSIDER THE MERITS OF INCREASING GAS PIPELINE CAPACITY BY LOWERING THE TEMPERATURE OF THE GAS. THE US DELEGATION INFORMED THE GROUP OF THE WORK BEING DONE IN THIS AREA IN CONNECTION WITH THE DELIVERY OF ALASKAN GAS IN THE NORTH SLOPE AND OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

G) PROGRAMMING WORK: THE WORK PROGRAM INCLUDES LMG PEAK-SHARING INSTALLATIONS, STORAGE OF GAS, LOAD FACTORS OF PIPELINE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, AND OFFSHORE-SEA PIPELINES TECHNOLOGY.

3. OTHER MATTERS: IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US REPRESENTATIVE, MR. D'ANDREA, AND THE STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT, THE SEMINAR AND STUDY TOUR ON LMG PEAK-SHARING TO BE

HOSTED BY THE US IN MARCH 1979, WAS DISCUSSED. THE SECRETARIAT WAS PLEASED WITH THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AND WITH ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE TOUR. APART FROM US PRESENTATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT PAPERS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE UK, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, CANADA, USSR, AND SOME PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE ECE REGION SUCH AS JAPAN, ALGERIA AND IRAN.

4. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE US HAS ATTENDED A GROUP OF EXPERTS' MEETING AND THE US DELEGATION FOUND IT INFORMATIVE AND HELPFUL. MOST OF THE WORK OF THE GAS

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COMMITTEE IS CARRIED OUT BY GROUPS OF EXPERTS AND IT IS IN THOSE GROUPS THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES CAN PROVIDE THE GREATEST INFLUENCE AND OBTAIN THE GREATEST BENEFIT. PARTICIPATION MUST BE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS, BUT THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF GAS CERTAINLY MERITS OUR PARTICIPATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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